

Homily - 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time – C

January 26, 2013

Deacon Frank Prideaux

This has been a very busy week. Monday was the celebration for MLK. Fr. Benz and I were privileged to participate in the celebration of his life at Borrromeo church. MLK had a dream for our country. Later, many of us heard our President's inaugural address. Just now, we heard **Jesus' inaugural address.** These **inaugural addresses** expressed dreams. Jesus expressed his dream shortly after He returned from spending forty days and forty nights in the desert preparing for His public ministry. He returned to His own hometown of Nazareth to begin His public ministry. His “dream” is what you just heard in today's reading from Isaiah and in the Gospel account:

In the Gospel, after going to the synagogue, Jesus read from Isaiah:

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. Then He sat down and announced to those in attendance: **'Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing'***

How many of you have purchased this CD by Matthew Kelley? I highly recommend it. I've heard it at least three times. Matthew makes a lot of excellent points, many of which relate to **Christ's inaugural speech.** Can we really help make Christ's **dream** come true? Matthew Kelley would say YES and YES. And to the extent that it isn't yet true, we can work to make it come true. As a matter of fact we *must work to* make it come true. A huge part of our human misery is found in our human rejection of Christ's dream. **We can,** however, do **our** part to make it come true **if** we **put aside** our human differences, **accept** our commonly shared humanity, and **live** as members of one human body in shared common good. We, you and I, by the way we live our lives and relate to others, ought to be able to say to everyone: "**Today this Scripture passage is being fulfilled in your hearing.**"

Respecting life, living in honesty and truth, establishing justice, working for peace, and building up our families are all things that we Americans must be about. To be **told** that we should keep our values to ourselves is totally un-American, a denial of our freedom to speak openly and publicly about what we hold to be true, and a denial of our basic human and civil rights. Keeping our values to ourselves ultimately leads to the downfall of our nation.

My brothers and sisters, the Spirit of the Lord **is** upon you. He has anointed you and given you His gifts of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, steadfastness and courage. As **Matthew Kelley says, live your commissioning as Catholics - **boldly and courageously.**** Go forth and assist the poor and the sick, and help those in captivity. With those first apostles, **burst out** of your private rooms and go out into the public square, and there, along with those apostles, **proclaim the values and the freedom that Jesus Christ suffered, died and rose from the dead to give us.**

Live His dream.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.